



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

29 DECEMBER 2021

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) San Diego – Marine Arrested on Suspicion of Human Smuggling

(U) A Camp Pendleton Marine was arrested on suspicion of smuggling immigrants into the San Diego backcountry on Christmas Day. Angel Morales Gaitan was arrested in Campo after a Border Patrol agent saw a Kia Optima was driving suspiciously, with its driver appeared to not know where he was going, the complaint states. The agent called for a marked car to make a traffic stop, and two people were found in the car's backseat trying to hide, the complaint states. Morales was arrested on suspicion of transportation of undocumented immigrants. Morales told law enforcement he was hired after responding to an advertisement on Instagram for drivers, offering \$1,000 per trip, the complaint says. He told agents he was to drive the couple to Los Angeles.

SOURCE: 28 December 2021, [LA Times](#)

(U) San Diego – Man Gets Second Life Term for Synagogue Attack

(U) A 22-year-old white supremacist was sentenced to life in federal prison for killing a woman and injuring three others in a shooting at a Southern California synagogue in 2019, adding to the life term he received three months earlier in state court. John Earnest declined to speak in a courtroom full of victims, families, and congregants. In state court, his attorney said he wanted to speak but a judge refused, saying he didn't want to give a platform for his hate-filled speech. Earnest pleaded guilty to federal hate crimes in September after the Justice Department said it wouldn't seek the death penalty. That same month, Earnest received another life term under a plea agreement with state charges that spared him the death penalty. His conviction for murder and attempted murder at the synagogue and arson for an earlier fire at a nearby mosque brought a life sentence without parole, plus 137 years.

SOURCE: 28 December 2021, [Associated Press](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – US Judge Rules Proud Boys Members Must Face January 6 Charges

(U) Washington – A US judge yesterday allowed a criminal case relating to the deadly 6 January Capitol attack to move forward, declining to dismiss charges against four members of the far-right Proud Boys group. In a written ruling, US District Judge Timothy Kelly rejected arguments by the four Proud Boys defendants that obstruction charges should be thrown out. The defendants, Ethan Nordean, Joseph Biggs, Zachary Rehl, and Charles Donohoe have been charged with violating a federal law that makes it a felony to obstruct an official government proceeding, among other charges. That obstruction charge has been used by prosecutors in more than 230 of the 700 criminal cases against participants in the assault.

SOURCE: 28 December 2021, [Reuters](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Turkey – One Hurt in Knife Attack on Pro-Kurdish Party Office

(U) Ankara – Police detained a man who wounded one person during a knife attack on a branch of a pro-Kurdish party in Istanbul. The assailant entered the People’s Democratic Party, or HDP, office in the Bahcelievler district and threatened to kill everyone inside the building before wounding one person. It was the second attack on an HDP building this year. In June 2021, a gunman stormed the HDP’s office in the Izmir province and killed a female employee.

SOURCE: 28 December 2021, [Associated Press](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.